

SHERMAN THOMAS

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Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

Thomas Sherman

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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THOMAS H. SHERMAN,

NEW UNITED STATES CONSUL TO LIVERPOOL.

THE position of Consul to Liverpool—apart from that of Consul-general to London and Paris—is certainly one of the most important in the consular service. Liverpool being the great sea-faring metropolis of the Old World, this is a post in which all men in the merchant marine service have a specially lively interest. To this important office President Harrison has appointed Thomas H. Sherman, of Maine. Mr. Sherman was not only recommended and indorsed by all the Maine Senators and

From Lucy Temple's Treasures



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—THOMAS H. SHERMAN,
U. S. CONSUL TO LIVERPOOL.

PHOTO BY BELL.

Representatives, but by a majority of all the New England Senators and Representatives, as a man in every way fit for this important and responsible office. His long service in the Consular Bureau in the State Department, where he had charge of a division, has made him familiar with the duties of the position to which he has been appointed, and he will undoubtedly fill it to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Thomas H. Sherman was born in Bucksport, Me., in 1842. He was educated at the common schools and the Maine Conference Seminary. In 1862 he went to Washington as a telegraph-operator, and continued at this business until 1869, when he became private secretary to Hon. James G. Blaine on his election as Speaker of the House of Representatives, and continued as such after Mr. Blaine became Senator and afterward Secretary of State. Upon the retirement of Mr. Blaine from the State Department, Mr. Sherman was appointed a clerk by Secretary Frelinghuysen, and continued in the position until Mr. Blaine entered President Harrison's Cabinet, when Mr. Sherman was again appointed his private secretary. The Liverpool appointment is one which has been earnestly sought by ex-Senators, ex-Governors, ex-Representatives, and politicians of high and low degree, and Mr. Sherman is to be congratulated upon having secured so valuable a prize.

Frank Leslie's Weekly

June 1st 89

CONSUL OF LIVERPOOL.

HON. THOMAS HENRY SHERMAN,
OF BUCKSPORT, THE MAN.

HOW HONESTY, FAITHFULNESS AND
STRICT INTEGRITY IS REWARDED.

A few weeks since, rumor had it that one who was born in this town, and who has always kept up his early friendships by frequent visits to his old home, would be selected by President Harrison for a foreign mission, and our recent telegraph intelligence informs us that Madame Rumor was right, for Hon. Thomas H. Sherman, whose genial, affable manners makes friends of all with whom he comes in contact, has received the appointment of Consul of Liverpool.

Mr. Sherman is the sixth child of a family of fifteen children and inherits his sterling integrity and executive ability from a sturdy New England blacksmith, Hon. John Sherman, who in his day represented our town in the State Legislature and of whom none but words of commendation are ever heard.

At the age of fifteen, Thomas H., having received a fair common school education, and knowing from the size of his father's family that what he was in the future would depend largely upon his own exertions, made his start to carve that future, and securing a position with Mr. W. H. Darling, who at that time was proprietor of the shoe store and telegraph office now occupied by A. H. Genn & Co., mastered the art of telegraphy, which was then in its infancy, using the old paper machine, and as the improvements in this art were made, he adopted each one, until to-day he is considered one of the most skillful operatives in the country. To this achievement, he added stenography and type writing as they were brought forward, and as in telegraphy, has proved himself their master; and there are few who equal him in the rapidity of the work.

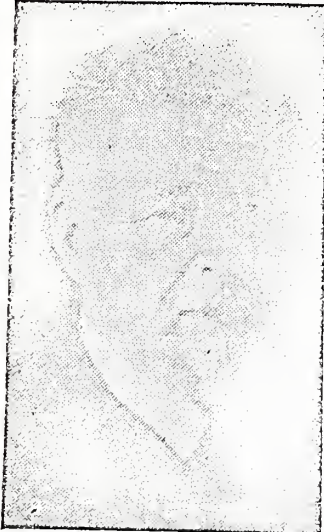
Mr. Sherman has served as telegraph operator in many towns and cities in the country and finally drifted to Washington D.C., where he was when Hon. J.G. Blaine was first elected speaker of the House of Representatives. Mr. Blaine's attention was brought to the efficiency of Mr. Sherman as a stenographic reporter and he at once secured him as the private secretary of the speaker of the House, which position he held with such fidelity and faithfulness that at the end of Mr. Blaine's eight years term as speaker, he was made his private secretary until President Garfield appointed Mr. Blaine Secretary of State, when Mr. Sherman was given a place in the consular bureau of the state department, which position he retained until the fourth of March last. Although during the democratic administration great pressure was brought to bear to have him removed, Secretary Bayard, knowing the importance of the position and realizing the difficulty of filling it satisfactorily, was not willing to place the service in jeopardy by experimenting with untried persons.

Upon the fourth of March, 1889, Mr. Sherman was called to the position of private secretary of the secretary of state and was faithfully attentive to his duties as such, when he was appointed Consul of Liverpool.

Mr. Sherman has many friends in the vicinity, who unite with us in congratulating him upon his recent appointment, and our young men can see in this short sketch of his life that honesty, fidelity and strict attention to the business at hand, will in the end bring its reward. Whatever is undertaken should be with a firm determination to become a master of the profession.

Bucksport News

Thomas H. Sherman, Last to See Lincoln Shot, Succumbs Here



THOMAS H. SHERMAN

**"New" GAR Vet
Was Tele-
grapher During
Civil War —
Served as Secre-
tary to Blaine**

Thomas H. Sherman, last survivor of the Ford's theatre audience that saw President Lincoln shot, member of William A. Street's post of the Grand Army and Grand Army Dining club, died last night in his 97th year, at the Phillips Rest home, George st., after an illness of several months.

Mr. Sherman who was detached from a Main regiment to serve as telegrapher in the Government offices at Washington, during the Civil War, was born at Buckport, Me., Oct. 23, 1842, the son of John and Harriet (Atwood) Sherman.

From 1870 to 1890 he served as secretary to Sen. James G. Blaine, candidate for the presidency.

On the night of April 14, 1865, Mr. Sherman slipped into a balcony seat at Ford's theatre in Washington and watched the

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Thos. H. Sherman, Last to See Lincoln Shot, Succumbs

play progress to the third act. A shot cracked through the theatre and a scuffle broke out in the president's box. A man leaped to the stage.

Mr. Sherman in recalling the assassination of President Lincoln in an interview sometime ago, described the scene thus:

"The shot seemed like a trick of the play until smoke issued from the president's box. Then a handsome young man of medium build, immaculately dressed in black, leaped from the box to the stage.

"He seemed a veritable fiend as he rose to his full height and brandished a dagger.

"The only actor on the stage, Harry Hawk, backed away, his hands held high, as John Wilkes Booth, the assassin, made a dive at him. Then both disappeared through the red-curtained exit."

"For a moment, it was said the murderer had been caught and there were cries 'Kill him! Hang him!'"

"I ran onto the stage. At the height of the confusion Laura Keane, an actress, came on. She seemed the only cool person there. 'For God's sake, gentlemen,' she begged, 'be quiet and keep cool.' She sent a pitcher of water to the president.

"Quiet was soon restored and the president, unconscious, was carried out by four men. Mrs. Lincoln followed, sobbing and wringing her hands."

Mr. Sherman's wife, the former Miss Katherine E. Swett, died 12 years ago. A son, John C. Sherman, 224 Park st., a grandson, John Page Sherman and a great grandson John Moody Sherman all of Attleboro survive him. He was a member of the Masonic lodge of Buckport and honorary member of Cannongate Kilwinig lodge of Edinburg, Scotland, the oldest existing lodge.

Mr. Sherman began to work as a boy of 14 in a store where a telegraph wire was located and learned the art of transmitting and receiving messages. Operators were in great demand and his art took Mr. Sherman to Boston, New York and finally to Washington.

In the Senate gallery he sent the news of Andrew Johnson's impeachment. He delivered messages to senate members and through this association became the private secretary of James G. Blaine.

For 20 years Mr. Sherman was in close contact with Blaine, who was six years speaker of the House, twice secretary of state and for a generation, a potential U. S. president. Later Mr. Sherman was consul at Liverpool. Following his active life he retired and resided at Gorham, Me., coming to make his home in Attleboro with his son about seven years ago.

While serving as a telegrapher in Washington, Mr. Sherman personally delivered a message to President Lincoln from the governor of Massachusetts, that saved the life of a boy condemned to death for falling asleep while on sentry duty.

Mr. Sherman is the author of a book, "Twenty Years With James G. Blaine," which tells the story of the Washington political scene as he knew it, in the days of his secretaryship and which was published several years ago.

Mr. Sherman received his appointment as U. S. consul to Liverpool, Eng., from Blaine, then secretary of state, with confirmation from President Harrison. Returning to this country he became associated with Munsey in the publishing field. He retired from active work 40 years ago.

Active to the last, Mr. Sherman, continued to correspond with friends and to keep alive many friendships of long standing. He passed away in his sleep last

night, apparently without pain.

Mr. Sherman did not join the G.A.R. until he came to Attleboro. Assigned as a telegrapher for the government at Washington during the Civil war, he was drafted for army service in Maine, was released by governmental order, and returned to Washington. A clerk, however, marked him absent at the next roll call and this mark was carried on his record for many years. Members of the G.A.R. Dining club were instrumental in making him eligible for membership in the Streeter post, here. His death leaves four members of the post.

Funeral service will be held from the John W. Money Funeral home, Park st., tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock with cremation at Forest Hills.

